

Application Number: 10/511,807

An Office Action was mailed on August 27, 2008. Claims 1-7, 9, 12-14 and 16-17 are pending. New Claims 16-17 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Baumagarte et al. (U.S. 2003/0003553). Claims 1-7, 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumagarte in view of Veldhuis (U.S. Pat. No. 5,621,855). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumagarte and Veldhuis in view of Davis et al. (WO 99/04470).

Independent claims 1, 9 and 12-14 have each been amended to recite the limitation of "generating a monaural signal comprising a combination of at least two input audio channels wherein the at least two input audio channels are time/frequency sliced such that they can be analyzed as a function of time."

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited Baumagarte and Veldhuis references alone do not contain any hint or suggest "generating a monaural signal comprising a combination of at least two input audio channels wherein the at least two input audio channels are time/frequency sliced such that they can be analyzed as a function of time." as claimed in amended claims 1, 9, 12 and 13-14.

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Since Baughnagare and veronuris, alone or in combination, does not teach all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 1, 9, 12 and 13-14, it cannot render the present invention unpatentable. For at least the above cited reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 9, 12

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Attorney Docket: NI.021156

Mail all correspondence to:
Dan Piotrowski Registration No. 47 070
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001

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